

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### HINCHEY AMENDMENT DIRECTS FAA TO EXAMINE IMPROVEMENTS AT STEWART AIRPORT

#### *\$5.7 Million for ATC Tower Remains in Spending Bill*

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today added an amendment to an appropriations bill that directs the Federal Aviation Administration to examine improvements to Stewart International Airport as part of a solution to alleviate congestion at LaGuardia Airport. A recent report from the FAA on overcrowding at LaGuardia failed to mention Stewart among possible solutions.

"Stewart Airport is ideally situated to help meet the increasing demand for flights in the New York City region," said Hinchey. "The FAA needs to make a greater investment in Stewart to make this happen, but so far they have ignored this convenient and logical move. The amendment I added today will force them to address it."

Hinchey's amendment to the Transportation Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002 inserts a provision that reads in part, "The Committee...directs the Federal Aviation Administration to report on how Stewart International Airport can be better utilized to serve the region's growing air traffic needs." The bill also contains a measure providing \$350,000 to the Federal Highway Administration's budget for a study of transportation links between Stewart and New York City.

The transportation spending bill, which passed the full Appropriations Committee today, also includes \$5.7 million that Hinchey requested for the construction of a state-of-the-art air traffic control tower at Stewart. The funding covers most of construction costs of the tower. In the fiscal year 2001 spending bill, Hinchey secured \$500,000 for construction and \$500,000 for equipment. The construction is expected to cost \$6.7 million and to require \$2 million in equipment.

The FY '02 Transportation Appropriations bill is expected to be considered and passed by the full House within a few weeks.

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